Supply of drinking water for the Nagercoil town.

MR K. MARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: The Assembly recommends to the Government that Mukudal scheme should be carried out as early as possible to supply the town of Nagercoil with drinking water.

Remission of land revenue for 1113.

MR. K. KESAVAN: This Assembly recommends to the Governmentthat 25 per cent of the land revenue for the year 1113 be remitted.

MANUFACTURE OF PURE AND WHITE SALT IN ALL ALLOMS.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I move the following resolution:

"This Assembly recommends to the Government to manufacture pure and white salt in all the alloms of the State."

The last manufacture of salt in most of our alloms contained a large percentage of magnesium sulphate and it is a poisonous matter A question may be asked how a person who is neither an expert nor a scientist could straight way say that? I will answer that in a simple way. There is a method of testing that. Bulletin No. XXX, on salt manufacture in South Travancore, whose author being Mr. C. Kumara Das, B. A., M. SC,, A. I. C., says thus:

> "A handful of salt, picked from a heap and pressed between the dry palm and fingers, when let fall, will leave some particles adhering to the hand, if magnesium chloride was present. If, howeves, the salt does not stick, it is dry and pure. This simple test, apparently crude, indicates in an admirable way, the presence or otherwise, of this impurity."

I myself have applied that test to various samples of salt from the alloms and found the salt to contain poisonous matter. If salt contains a large percentage of magnesium sulphate, it is injurious to the health of the people. This has to be looked into.

I shall give another point for consideration. This is what the Industrial Chemist says.

> "The aim of the manufacturer is to produce a commodity that has as large a proportion of sodium chloride as possible. This can be accomplished by the elimination of the other substances, or if that cannot be done completely, they should be reduced to a minimum Care bestowed on scraping and storing will nearly eliminate the insolubles, and our salts, except the market sample which is obviously adulterated have acquitted themselves will in regard to them..... where our salt needs improvements, is in the minimising of the magnesium salts. It is here that the genuine Bombay salts test ours."

Therefore, Sir, the salt manufactured here contains poisonous matter which is harmful to health. What is the use of keeping this department which is responsible for producing salt containing poisonous matter and thus bring about unhealthiness to people.

MR. JAMES SIMPSON: Is it not a fact that the Medical Department distributes a large quantity of what the member calls injurious salt to the public?

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MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : I shall answer that question towards the end of my speech provided I do not forget it. (*Laughter*).

Another point which I wish to draw the attention of the House is that salt must be scraped at the density of 30° Be. But the present practice is to scrape it at more than 30° and 40° Be. Hence there is over production of salt. This is a point which has to be taken note of by the xcise Department. It is the duty of the Excise Commissioner and his assistants to see that salt is scraped out at a particular density. Proper control has to be exercised by this department.

I also hear that the excise officers in alloms are subsidised by salt licensees. I do not know whether it is true. But many people have told me of this. Therefore, there must be some truth in it if not the whole truth. The Excise Commissioner I admit is one of the few officers who is not idle. But his administration of the department is very weak, inefficient and soforth.

Then as to the colour of the salt I have to say a word. If the salt is pure and has a large percentage of sodium chloride, the colour must be white. Salt in Travancore is not white. That indicates the poor quality of salt. It is not pure. But the salt manufactured in Rajakkamangalam is white. That salt is pure, but it has one defect. The salt produced there is spoiled by cattle which graze in the alloms.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI (*Nominated*) : May I know whether the Bombay salt is pure?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Comparatively speaking pure.

MR. M. L. JANARDANA PILLAI : Is its colour white?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : I shall try to answer that later. So then my point is, that in Rajakkamangalam the land-lords have a large number of cattle. From the sheds they are let loose to graze in the salt pans throughout the night. That must be due to want of fodder for cattle in that part of the locality. If the cattle are prevented from spoiling salt, that will form a good protection in the manufacture of salt. This point may be considered by the Excise Commissioner when he proposed to reply. Since the salt manufactured in almost all alloms is not sufficiently pure I consider that it is the duty of the department to exercise proper control over it. Salt is a commodity which is used by men and animals even.

The production of pure salt is an all-Travancore interest. It is the prime duty of the Government to see that in future at least aalt is manufactured in the proper way. If the supervision if left to the Excise Department I do not think they will be able to conduct it in the proper way especially in view of the fact that many of the excise officers are

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being subsidized by licenses. Cons equently, they do not evince as much interest as they ought to. With thsse words, I commend by resolution to the acceptance of the House.

MR. D. FRANCIS : I second it.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : I oppcse the resolution.

സർ, മി: നാരായണപ്പെരുമാൾ നാടാർ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു. മി: നാടാർ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയം പൊതുവെ പ്രയോജനകരമാണെങ്കിലും മി: നാടാർ പറയുന്ന പ്രകാരത്തിൽ വലിയ അർത്ഥമൊന്നുമില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ്സെഷനിൽ ഉപ്പിന്റെ അംശങ്ങളെ കാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പട്ടിക ഇവിടെ വായിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വിശദമായി ഈ സഭമുമ്പാകെ അപ്പോൾ വിമർശനം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ബാംബെ ഉപ്പുപോലെയുള്ള നല്ല ഉപ്പ് ഇവിടങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് അന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. ഉപ്പു സാധാരണ ഖനികളിൽനിന്നും കുഴിച്ചു കിട്ടുന്ന ജലംകൊണ്ടും സമുദ്രജലംകൊണ്ടും ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഉപ്പു പാത്തികളിൽനിന്നും വാരുന്നതിനു താമസിച്ചാലും, പാത്തി വൃത്തിയാക്കാഞ്ഞാലും ഉപ്പ് ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമാകും. എന്നാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ശരിയായി നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കീഴ്ജീവനക്കാരുടെ കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പറ്റി പറയുന്ന സംഗതികൾ മി: നാടാർക്കു നേരിട്ട് അറിവുള്ളതായി കാണാൻ ഇടയില്ല. കേവം വിയെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി പൊതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ കുറപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR. May I now whether the member is a salt licensee?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: അതുകൊണ്ടാണു ഞാൻ ഇതു പറയുന്നതു്. രാജാക്കമംഗലം എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു് എനിക്കു് അളമുണ്ട്. രാജാക്കമംഗലത്തുള്ള ഉപ്പളങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണെങ്കിൽ അവയുടെ പുറം കമ്പിവേലിയിട്ടാൽ കന്നുകാലി അളത്തിനകത്തു പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അതു് ഉടനടി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണു്. ഇന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിഷ്ക്കളങ്കമായി ഭരണം നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ ഭരണസംഗതികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇതുമാതിരി ഒരു കർശന വിമർശനം നടത്തുക്കതായി വല്ല കാര്യവും ഉള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിവില്ല തീർച്ചയായും ഇല്ല. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ സിൽബന്ധികൾ ഉപ്പു മോഷ്ടിക്കാൻ വന്നപ്പോൾ മി: നാരായണപ്പെരുമാൾ നാടാരുടെ വീട്ടിന്റെ നടയിൽക്കൂടെ വളരെ ദൂരം ഓടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, ഈ സംഭവത്തിൽ സിൽബന്ധികളിൽ ഒരാളിനു പരുക്കു പറ്റി

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[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

റതായും എനിക്കറിയാം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സകല ജനങ്ങളുടേയും പ്രതിനിധികളം അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സഭയിൽ തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ മാത്രം സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ചെറിയകാര്യം കൊണ്ടുവന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു നയങ്ങളെ വിമർശിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല.

രാജാക്കമംഗലം അളങ്ങളിൽ ഒരുതരം മുവന്ന ഒലിപ്പുകളം ഉണ്ട്. അടുത്ത കാലത്തു ഖനികളിൽനിന്നും വെള്ളമെടുത്തു ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പിനു ഒരു ചെറിയ നിറഭേദം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതായതു് ബാംബെ ഉപ്പുപോലെ ഒരു നിറം; അല്ലാതെ മി: നാടാർ പറയുന്നതുപോലെ വെള്ളനിറമല്ല. അതുമാതിരി ഉള്ള ഉപ്പുകളം കന്യാകുമാരി മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വിളഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നുണ്ട്. രാജാക്കമംഗലത്തും സമുദ്രജലത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള ഉപ്പിനു വെള്ളനിറം കിട്ടുന്നു.

മഗ്നീഷ്യം സൽഫേറു് ഇവിടെ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടാക്കാം. അതിലേയ്ക്കായി രണ്ടു ഫാക്ടറികളം ഉണ്ടാക്കി, എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരും ഡർബാർ ഫിനിഷ്യനും ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയൽ ഡയറക്ടരുംകൂടി ആലോചിച്ചു മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള മഗ്നീഷ്യം സൽഫേറു് മുഴുവനും ഇവിടത്തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യണം. ഇതുയും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ എതിർത്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Passing over the personal reference contained in the speech of Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar which does not deserve any reply, I come to the substance of the motion brought forward by him. In the first place I may say that the member appears to have brought this motion without taking the trouble to understand what pure salt is and what its colour is.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I could not hear even one word of what the Commissioner was saying.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will lift his voice.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The member thinks that the colour of pure salt is white. Of course, salt in its purest form may be white in colour. But the question is whether it is possible to manufacture pure white salt on a commercial scale for ordinary consumption. Every body knows that Bombay salt is considered to be superior in quality to our salt It contain a slightly higher percentage of sodium choloride But it is much darker in colour than our salt. The opinion of the member regarding colour only shows that the member has not taken the trouble to stuly the question. The member was taking objection to the existance of magnesium chloride in the salt manufactured in our factories. Magnisium salts in varying proportions will alwa s b found in

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common salt manufactured on a commerical basis. It is not the Travancore salt alone that Contains Magnesium salts. The process of manufacturing common salt now adopted in the world does not admit of complete elimination of Magnesium salts. Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar was saying that scraping of salt is not done at 30 degrees as it ought to be done. I may admit that the departmental agenciees may be subject to the weakness common to all human agencies, but the rule is that salt should be scraped when the brine is not above 30 degrees. A circular was recently issued to the effect that the salt should not be allowed to be scraped when the brine is above 30 degrees in density. I believe it is strictly adhered to. In consultation with the Director of Industries the Department is taking all possible steps to improve the quality of salt in our factories.

MR. E. P. VARUGHESE: May I know whether it contains any poisonous substance?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Magnesium is not poisonous. I have here got the opinion of the Superintendent of Public Health Laboratory that the salt is not deleterious for human consumption.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know the cause for the colour of the salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It may be due to the colour of the soil.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Does not the member admit that the colour of our salt is due to the way in which it is manufactured?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It will have its present colour if the salt is manufactured in the process in which it is now done. We can improve its colour if it is manufactured in small quantities as for table salt. But it is not possible to maintain its pure white colour when salt is manufactured in large quantities.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know the reason why some of our alloms produce white salt while others produce red salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It all depends upon the nature and colour of the soil. If the pans and platforms are black in colour the colour of the salt will be black and if it is reddish in colour the salt also will be reddish in colour. As far as I can see, there is no substance in this motion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether the Bombay salt is superior to our salt.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: To this extent that it has got a slightly higher percentage of Sodium chloride than the salt manufactured in most of our factories.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether the Commissioner has analysed the salt in the Sri Sankara allom?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, it has been analysed.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know the percentage of Magnesium Chloride contained in the salt in that allom?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The analysis of the salt of 1111 P. P. has disclosed the following composition.

Sodium Chloride	...	82·552	per cent.
Magnesium Chloride	...	3·872	,,
Magnesium Sulphate	...	1·612	,,
Calcium Sulphate	...	1·084	,,
Moisture	...	7·934	,,
Insoluble	...	2 946	,,

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether there are other methods of manufacturing salt consistent with its purity?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, there are other methods. But it will be very costly.

MR. A. THANU PILUAI: Can the Commissioner give us a comparative statement on account of the difference of cost?

MR. C. O. MADHANAN: If you compare the cost of the table salt with the ordinary salt then you can know it.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: May I know whether the statement of Mr. Nadar that there is over production of salt in our State is correct?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, for the last 3 years, because the weather was very favourable our factories were producing more salt than we can consume. Measures are under contemplation for restricting the output.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Is it a fact that in respect of some of our alloms the salt produced has improved of late?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, of late the salt has improved in quality.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know what is it due to?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Because of the better attention paid to manufacture.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether there is possibility of still improving it?

MR. C O. MADHAVAN: It cannot be said that we have reached the highest perfection. It is possible to improve the quality of the salt still further.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether all the possibilities for improving the quality of the salt are explored and steps taken to see that the best salt is produced?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The question of supplying sea brine for all the factories is under investigation by the Director of Industries. The purity of the salt, to a large extent, depends upon the kind of brine that is used.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: May I know whether in view of the fact that there is over production of salt in the State Government are trying to increase the facilities for starting new alloms or are they restricting it.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The policy of Government is not to permit the opening of fresh alloms without restriction.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: May I know whether new men are coming into the field for the expansion of salt industry?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There are applications but Government are very cautious in sanctioning them.

MR. A. THANU PILLLI: May I know whether there is any chance of reducing the percentage of clay or sand in the salt produced here?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes.

MR. V. CHANDAMIAH (*Nominated*): The members who spoke just now do not know how salt is manufactured. I will ask Mr. Philipose and Mr. Thanu Pillai to visit one of these alloms.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: I never said about the quality of the salt. I was enquiring about the production or rather the ovor production of salt. It does not require a visit to the factory.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member may continue his speech from his seat. The reason for the table being put in front of the honourable member is to prevent him from moving away from his seat.

MR. V CHANDAMIAH: In Thamaracolam factories, salt does not form when the brine is 30 degrees The salt forms at 31 or 32 degrees. It is white in colour. We keep the salt on pan ridges When it is removed from the ridges a certain amount of clay also goes with it. I have been a Mnaager of a Salt Factory for 6 years and have an experience in the line for several years. From the ridges the salt is carried to platform. From thes platforms it is issued for sale. During the process of these transfers a small portion of clay also sticks up to it and naturally get itself mixed up with the salt. Our salt is purer than Bombay salt. On chemical examination of both the specimens it was found that our salt is chemically more pure. From Thamaracolam Allom the salt is transported to Alleppey, Quilon and other depots. Again it is stored there on sand platforms. That is why our salt contains particules of sand. Mr Mackar Pillai told us that the Cochin salt is purer than our salt. As the Excise Commissioner said, our salt contains a small percentage of magnesium salt which is found also in salts imported from outside These facts show that our salt is not so impure as has been represented it to be.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Sir, I wish to make a few observations in order to correct certain statements made by the mover of the resolution. He said that the quality of the salt produced in our factories was generally inferior to the quality of the salt obtainable elsewhere—say from Bombay. In the first place I repudiate the very suggestion. It is not true that the quality of our salt is generally inferior to that of Bombay salt. The quality of a specimen of salt is to be judged by the percentage of sodium chloride it contains. It is true that in the case of salt produced in certain factories, the percentage of sodium chloride contained therein is lower than in Bombay salt. But that is not the criterion for judging the quantity of local salt. Taking the average percentage of sodium chloride in the salt manufactured in all the factories of our State, it will be seen that it is either equal to or probably one percent or so lower than in the Bombay salt. That does not in any way justify the presumption made by the mover, that the quality of our salt is generally inferior to the quality of Bombay salt.

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[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

Sir, do to the calimatic conditions of our land the percentage of moisture in our salt must be higher than obtains elsewhere. That is, I believe one of the reasons why the percentage of sodium chloride is slightly lower. But that does not warrant the assumption that our salt is inferior to Bombay salt. Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar has also said that Bombay salt is superior to our salt. But I must say that the very colour of the Bombay salt dark colour shows that it contains more foreign matter than our salt. That is proof positive of the fact that the salt is not so good as ours. The natural colour of sodium chloride is white and the very colour of the Bombay salt indicates that it is impure.

Sir, I should offer a word of explanation as to how the colour of salt produced in some factories is reddish. The colour is due to the several circumstances. In the first place, it is largely due to the nature of the soil constituting the crystallising beds. Secondly it is due to some extent, to the prevalence of dust storms in the neighbourhood of salt factories. I know for instance that in the neighbourhood of one factory, these dust storms prevail and large quantities of dust are being carried into the factory and during the course of what is known as storage by weighment the dust naturally affects the colour of the salt. The salt stored by weighment is contaminated also to some extent by the nature of the soil constituting the platform.

Another point mentioned by the honourable member is that our salt contains a high percentage of magnesium sulphate. Sir, as was observed by the Excise Commissioner, it is absolutely impossible to completely eliminate the presence of magnesium salts. But we can reduce it to a minimum. In Bombay salt also we find some percentage of magnesium salts. The licensees and the department are trying to reduce the percentage of magnesium salts in local salt. I can say with some degree of authority that the percentage has been considerably reduced by special processes such as elimination of bitterns and by improved methods of manufacture. Sir, many of the statements made by Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar are not borne out by facts. Therefore, I oppose the resolution.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : I do still maintain that the salt manufactured in our factories is impure. I have not gaeat faith in the arguments of the Excise Commissioner. If the Dewan would visit these factories and sweep out all the salts stored up there, with a Buam hydrometer and assure that particular measures will be taken to see that these factories produce pure salts I will withdraw the resolution.

PRESIDENT : The President is not in a position to resort to a Buam and to give such an undertaking.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : I press the motion, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and lost.

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